

2/22. (Amended) A container for bodily remains which comprises:

2 a plurality of flexible walls defining and enclosing an interior chamber of dimensions sufficient to accommodate said remains;

4 a closable opening [in] formed by said walls providing access to said interior chamber for placing said remains therein;

6 each of said walls comprising sheet material impervious to gas and liquid, said material being capable of having individual portions thereof adhered to each other in a liquid- and gas-tight bond, at least some of such individual portions comprising aligned peripheral areas of adjacent walls, and such liquid- and gas-tight bonding cumulatively extending to enclose said chamber except at said closable opening;

12 whereby when said remains are placed in said interior chamber and said opening is closed by [said] liquid- and gas-tight bonding of [those] other portions of said material surrounding said opening, gases and fluids generated by said remains are contained within said chamber and do not exude through said walls

14

16 for an extended period of time.

REMARKS

In the subject Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 8-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Knight, 4,790,051, in view of Strong et al., 5,150,971, and Claims 2-3 under § 103 over Knight in view of Strong et al., further in view of Rathjen, 4,924,565. Claims 4-7 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments and remarks herein avoid or traverse the Examiner's rejections and place the case in condition for allowance.

Applicant has herein amended Claims 1 and 22 to incorporate the limitation of allowable Claim 4, and has cancelled Claim 4 (and amended Claim 5 to depend from Claim 1), thereby amending all claims into allowable form.

Claim 19 has been amended to clarify that both the closable opening and the peripheral edge areas are sealed by heat sealing (e.g., thermal heating or RF heating)

or chemical adhesion (e.g., solvent welding or chemical adhesives). Claim 19 therefore generally parallels Claims 23 and 24.

The independent claims having been amended to be limited to subject matter previously indicated to be allowable, it is submitted that the § 103 rejections of all Claims 1-3 and 8-25 over Knight in view of Strong et al., with or without further inclusion of Rathjen, have been avoided.

CONCLUSION


In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all grounds of rejection have been avoided and/or traversed. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to enter the amendments herein, reconsider and withdraw his rejections and objections and allow Claims 1-3 and 5-25, as amended, all claims in the case following amendment.

Should the Examiner believe that prosecution of this application might be expedited by further discussion of the issues, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant, collect, at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 18, 1997

By: _____


James W. McClain
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 24,536

BROWN, MARTIN, HALLER & McCLAIN
1660 Union Street
San Diego, California 92101-2926

Telephone: (619) 238-0999
Facsimile: (619) 238-0062

Docket No.: 6655 PA 01